

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/PRS:RJMCCLOSKEY

APPROVED BY S/PRS - AMB. MC CLOSKEY

S - MR. EAGLEBURGER

S/S/-MR. GAMMON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS FLASH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204190

REF; PARIS 26861

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

1. DURING A MEDAL OF HONOR PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT THE WHITE HOUSE OCTOBER 15, 1973 THE PRESIDENT INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING REMARKS REGARDING THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION IN HIS STATEMENT:

QUOTE: ONE WORD FINALLY WITH REGARD TO THE CURRENT WAR WHICH IS GOING ON IN THE MIDEAST. IF I WERE TO DESCRIBE OUR POLICY, I WOULD SAY THAT IT IS LIKE THE POLICY THAT WE FOLLOWED IN 1958 WHEN LEBANON WAS INVOLVED, IT IS LIKE THE POLICY WE FOLLOWED IN 1970 WHEN JORDAN WAS INVOLVED. THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE MIDEAST, VERY SIMPLY STATED, IS THIS: WE STAND FOR THE RIGHT OF EVERY NATION IN THE MIDEAST TO MAINTAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY. WE
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WANT THIS FIGHTING TO END, WE WANT THE FIGHTING TO END ON

A BASIS WHERE WE CAN BUILD A LASTING PEACE.

BUT THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES IS THAT OF PEACEMAKER IN THE AREA AND I WOULD CONCLUDE BY SAYING THAT THE MEN HONORED TODAY AND THE THOUSANDS OF OTHER AMERICANS WHO ALSO SHOULD BE HONORED, WHO SERVED THEIR COUNTRY IN VIETNAM, MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO PLAY THE HONORED ROLE OF PEACEMAKER IN THE WORLD. END QUOTE.

2. WHEN ASKED FOR FURTHER GUIDANCE REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT AT STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY SUBSEQUENTLY SAID:

QUOTE: WELL, I HAVE ONLY JUST HAD THE QUICKEST OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK AT THE TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS, AFTER HAVING SEEN ONE NEWS-AGENCY ACCOUNT, AND I THINK IT NEEDS TO BE EMPHASIZED THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS SPEAKING ABOUT A BROAD POLICY OBJECTIVE OF THE UNITED STATES -- AND NOT ABOUT A SPECIFIC TACTIC IN THE AREA, SUCH AS MIGHT HAVE BEEN ILLUSTRATED BY ONE OF THE SITUATIONS TO WHICH HE REFERRED.

HE SAID, "BUT THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES IS THAT OF PEACEMAKER IN THE AREA." "WE STAND FOR THE RIGHT OF EVERY NATION IN THE MIDEAST TO MAINTAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY. WE WANT THIS FIGHTING TO END. WE WANT THE FIGHTING TO END ON A BASIS WHERE WE CAN BUILD A LASTING PEACE."

SO I'D SUGGEST THAT ANY FAIR INTERPRETATION OF THE FULL CONTENT OF HIS REMARKS NEEDS TO BE LOOKED AT LESS WITH REGARD TO A SPECIFIC TACTIC THAN WITH A BROADER OVERALL OBJECTIVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. END QUOTE.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH ASP REPORTER WHO WROTE STORY FROM WHITE HOUSE MCCLOSKEY EXPLAINED PRESIDENT'S REMARKS SHOULD NOT BE READ AS SIGNALLING US MILITARY INTERVENTION IN MIDDLE EAST. REPORTER (MOISSY) AGREED HE UNDERSTOOD. KISSINGER

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